

Project Final Report

**Project Title: Collaborating the Relief and Recovery Efforts in Post Disaster Situations in Pakistan:
Need Assessment and Conceptual Coordination Framework**

Prepared by

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Project Description

The aim of this study was to investigate the coordination issues in relief distribution mechanisms in flood prone areas of Pakistan. Pakistan, like several other South Asian developing countries, is considered to have extreme coordination and communication issues in relief and recovery stages in disaster prone fields. This project aims to identify gaps in planned relief activities designed by the government and actual relief services conducted in flood affected areas in Punjab, the most flood prone province of Pakistan. The study administered the Humanitarian Emergency Settings Perceived Needs (HESPER) scale to gather the most accurate need assessment of victims in flood affected areas in Punjab. Moreover, the project also conducted a gap analysis and propose a detailed list of items required by the victims as well as conducting a series of interviews with key personnel from relief organizations. After gathering detailed insights on how relief organizations determine the victims' needs and administer the supply distribution logistics, the team has constructed a theoretical model of the coordinated distribution mechanisms. The model aims to highlight a coordinated mapping of supplies lists, victims' perceived needs, logistic routes, and distribution mechanisms to avoid duplication, excess, or shortage of supplies.

PROJECT EXECUTION

First meeting: Project Administration Duties

Floods has been one of the most devastating natural disaster that Pakistan usually face every year due to limited number of dams and reservoirs. The situation usually portray the institutional and organizational in capabilities and capacities. There was an urgency to have a meeting between investigators and research assistants to have a discussion over the project so things could be assessed properly what to work, where to work and how to work. The parameters and scales were decided over which data need to be assessed. The meeting was to analyze and assess the pre/post flood prone areas for collection of data. We decided to divide the collection of data with two perspectives. The primary idea was to evolve around the people effected during floods in previous years in phase one. The phase two comprises of the data from areas to be affected in coming days. The basic concept was to target the gap between the government, organizations and affected people. The nearby areas of River Chenab and Indus were selected for collection of data. Hafizabad and Sambrial were selected as the areas for phase one while Rajanpur for phase two respectively.

This was one of the prolonged meetings that discussed every aspect of data collection, expected problems, research tools, scales, sample size and targeted population.

The Hesper scale was assessed for collection of data with a couple and more additions in the questionnaire that included their professions, number of family members, number of animals destroyed and kept during flood and after flood, involvement of Ngo's, items received during floods and expected demands of public. The basic concept was to diagnose the gap between public, government and nonprofit organizations.

Second meeting before the Data Collection Team left for field trip

The second meeting was a shorter one with casual encounter of investigators and researchers that discussed more about the cost, finances and expected date to leave. The investigators after directing the research just wanted to be a supportive character in collection of data and field research rather than directing again and again. This meeting was to finalize the plan what areas were needed to be targeted in post flood zone and analyzing the conditions of data collection. Keeping in view the accommodation, transportation and

tracking issues the sources and people were traced there that can lead us to the flood originated areas with the help of Red Crescent.

Field Trips

Field Trip 1 (Sialkot, Hafiz Abad)

Hafizabad

Hafizabad is located at 112 km from Lahore, which approximately takes 3 hours to reach there. A team with two members was all ready to set for the trip, we left Lahore by mid night as we were already in the coordination with the Sanallah the guide referred by Red Crescent. We reached Hafizabad In the morning. Sanallah seemed to be a man of hospitality and dedication. We received a warm welcome at his office as he was Assistant Director of Social welfare department. This proved to be a strong edge for us, as we already know that how difficult it might be to coordinate with the individuals on our own. Sanallah was well known man at the district with good reputation. We discussed our targeted domain we wanted to work on with Sanallah. The biggest task was collection of authentic data from the actually targeted and effected areas. We just assessed Hafizabad and divided them into zones according to our interest and target on its geographical representation and the vulnerability. We were all set of for the new voyage accompanied by Sanallah. We travelled around 350 km for collection of data, in the nearby villages and effected areas.

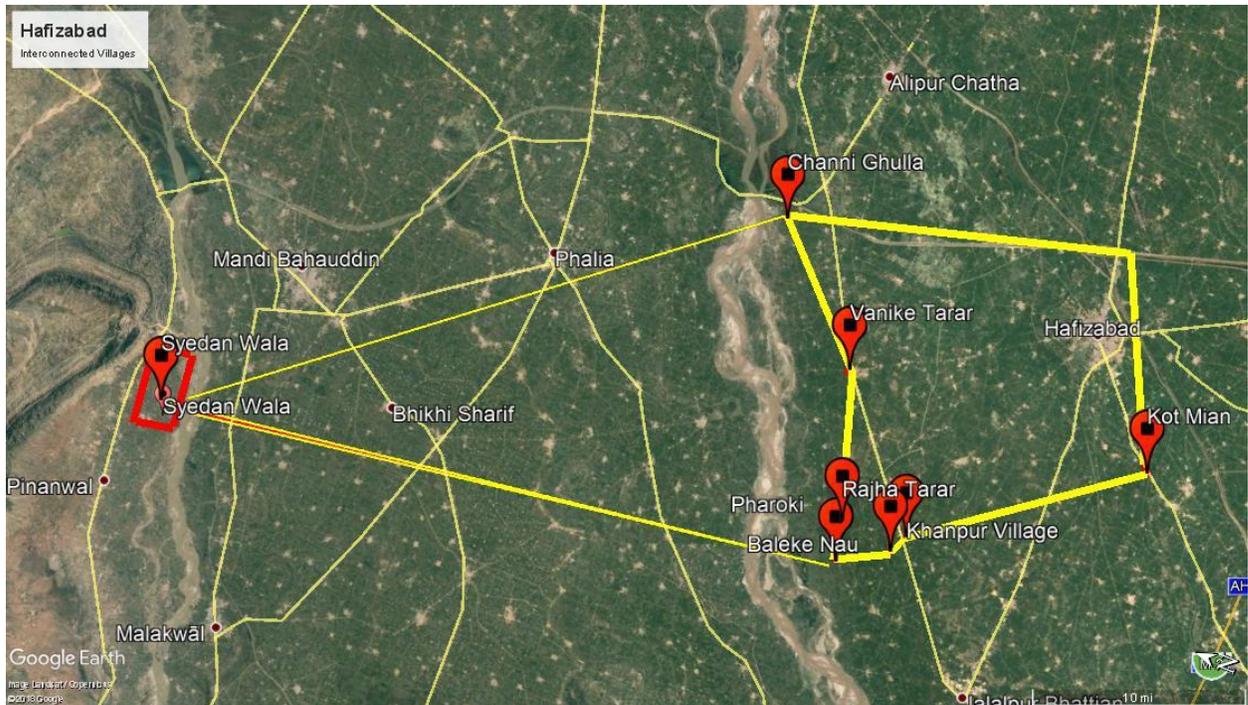


Fig 1. Areas covered for Hafizabad

- **Transportation & Accommodation**

We were already aware of the field temperature, travelling and visits to the villages were not possible without a personal car. We were of the view that accommodation could be managed somehow or either we might stay in some hotel but the main focus was to make travelling easy, as if we get tired it might affect the research data. So we a booked a car from Lahore, for our transportation for three days. Sanallah again

proved to be a worth man, as he was already aware that we might get difficulty in looking for apartments for the stay so he arranged a simple descent room for our stay.

Sambrial

Similarly the next morning we were all ready to be the guests of Mr. Ghumman, so we left for Sambrial. Sambrial is located at a distance of 110 km from Hafizabad. It approximately took 3 hours to reach there. We reached there in the morning and were accompanied by Mr. Ghumman. Our team was more likely interested in working on the sites rather going for breakfast or some recreational activities. Mr. Ghumman forced us to go for breakfast while we denied straightly and discussed the locations and plans we were interested in visiting so after analyzing the geographical representation we were all ready to leave. We almost travelled 200 km for collection of data and were accompanied by Mr. Ghumman. Mr. Ghumman was a man with different personality, as he was a man of theological stage more linked with some senior village men who control the village rather than knowing the village men themselves he was dependent on others.



Fig 2. Areas covered for Sambrial

We worked for late evenings in Sambrial as we were more interested in leaving the field by third day.

Expenditures

Travelling was the most expensive part of the trip to Hafizabad and Sambrial that almost accumulated the major portion of the budget allocated for the post-flood areas. The travelling expenditures also increased due to increased temperature, humidity and the vulnerability of tracks. Secondly the increased prices of petrol and transport increased the cost of trip. The total distance covered in 3 days was around 1000 km from Lahore to Hafizabad Sambrial and its surrounded areas.

$$\text{Fueling Cost: } \frac{\text{Total Distance Covered (1000km)}}{\text{Car Average}} \times \text{Petrol Price}$$

Transport Cost: \$30/ Day

Hoteling: \$10/ Day

Stationery: \$30

The stationery and printing costs also played their part in the increased expenses of the trip.

- **Data Collection Process**

The selection of areas on both sites was based on the vulnerability and maximum number of affected individuals. We selected the one third families of all villages as it is the perfect sample to work on. Out of 100 families we basically selected 33 families based on systematic random sampling keeping in view the representation of both women and men. We selected a sample of 120 families from Hafizabad and 64 from Sambrial. The head of family was selected to discuss the Hesper scale and their concerns were noted down. It approximately took 15-20 minutes to discuss the problems and relief measures with them.

- **Specific Problems of People/ Beneficiaries**

As we were collecting data based on Hesper scale, so a lot of things were not mention over the Hesper scale that were discussed by individuals. So we decided to bring a slight change in the questionnaire, so we added a column that could represent the free thinking of people, as well the problems that are not discussed by Hesper.

People of the both areas have serious concerns about safe and clean water as they lack basic facility to drink fresh water. Even we tried to test the water while it was the most difficult pill to swallow. The people usually claim about nepotism and incapability's of organizations as they are not much concerned about the delivery of relief at the right place but focuses the safe place and people have to reach by their own to get relief measures. Hafizabad and Sambrial were affected by flood of 2010 and they still look for someone to come and help them. Housing and shelter remains a major problem for the people, they are still incapable to manage a proper shelter. The people have their lands but could not build their houses due to lack of funds. Food consumption is one of the major issues they suffer as after the flood everything was washed away so they have neither been supported nor were able to support their families after such huge losses. The people have serious concerns about earning basic livelihood or either they could get some sort of cash to regularize their lives but organizations neither government won't help monetarily.

Third meeting before field trip 2

This meeting was merely based to listen up to the experiences we just went through in the post flood areas before we leave for pre-flood areas. We just shared our views, experiences over data collection, accommodation, finances while also sharing the practical approach of what public demands and what they receive. Recommendations to make the next research more effective ideas were also initiated that were based over planning and taking serious security measures in flooded and crime oriented areas.

Field Trip 2 (Rajan Pur)

RAJANPUR

Rajanpur is situated on the right bank (west side) of River Indus. It is bounded on the north by Dera Ghazi Khan District, to the west by Dera Bugti District of Balochistan, to the east by Muzaffargarh and Rahim Yar Khan districts, in the south lies Kashmore District of Sindh Province. The Suleiman Mountains rise to

the west of the district. This trip seemed to be more difficult to us before we left due to pro-long travelling, temperature and criminal records of Rajanpur. As usual our team was all set to leave for 600 km travelling, with two drivers to drive, we left Lahore by afternoon and reached Multan by mid night. We were already in touch with our resource person of Rajanpur, Shehzad Anwar Cheema. We updated him about our arrival to Rajanpur the very next morning, as we rested at a hotel in Multan for the night. The very next morning we were at Rajanpur with our host Shehzad Anwar Cheema, who was well aware of every area that was to be affected by floods.

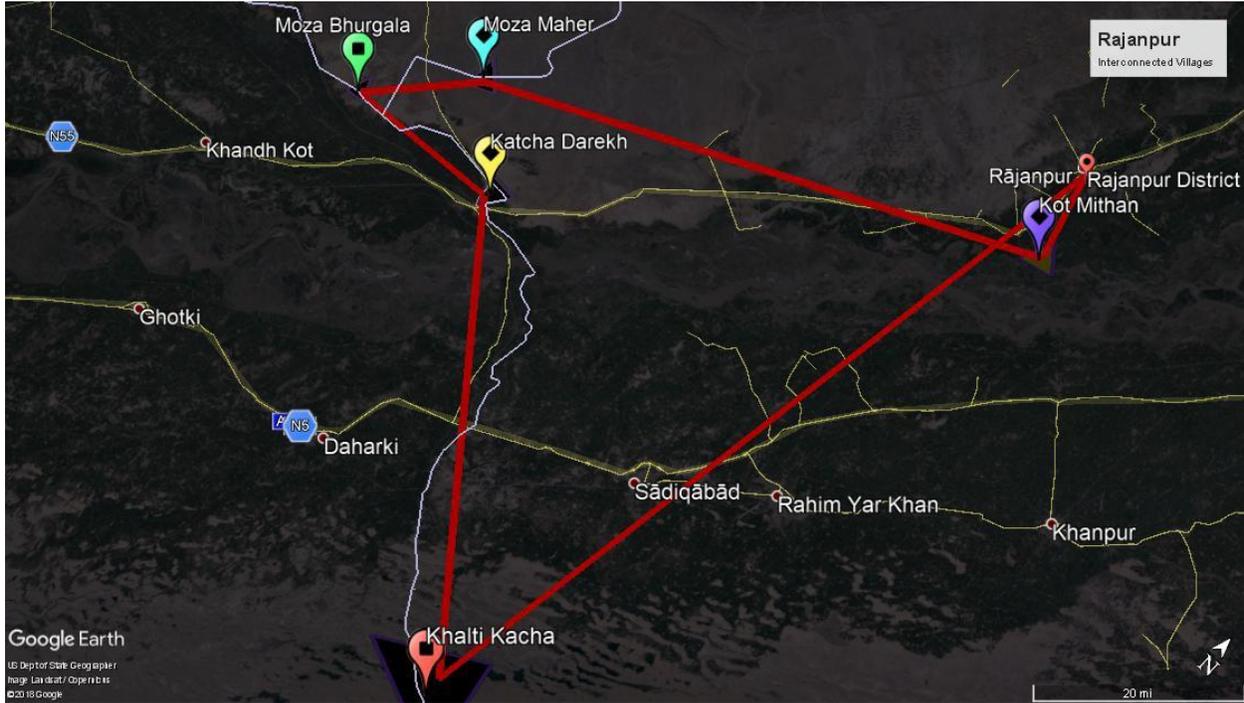


Fig 3. Areas covered for Rajanpur

He proposed an idea to work in the Basin of Indus River, where people suffer the most and are neither helped nor reported. We expressed our fear of being trapped in anti-locked jungles and River Basin while he tried to gain some trust which we could not deny. Shehzad Anwar Cheema gathered some of his friends who were well aware of security measures and tracking and led us from front to the stomach of River Indus.

- **Expenditures**

The expenditures were a bit out of control this time, that even shocked us up for once but similarly like the previous trip the major expenses included the transport and fueling cost. There was an addition of couple of more expenses like accommodation and hoteling that proved to be a raise in the cost of trip. The total distance covered in 4 days was about 2000 km.

Fueling Expenses: $\frac{\text{Total Distance Travelled (2000 Km)}}{\text{Car Average}} \times \text{Petrol Price}$

Transport Cost: \$30/ Day

Average Hoteling Charges: \$40/ Per Shift

Stationery: \$30

This trip just covered the major portion of budget allocated for the project.

- **Procedures of Data Collection**

The data collection from the site Rajanpur was quite difficult. We travelled through jungles and areas surrounded by tall trees, we just placed few signs so that we don't get lost inside the basin. We travelled for more than 300 Km inside the jungle to reach to the basin. After observing and analyzing the method to be used for data collection was convenient sampling. We catered around 76 families.

- **Specific Problems of People/ Beneficiaries**

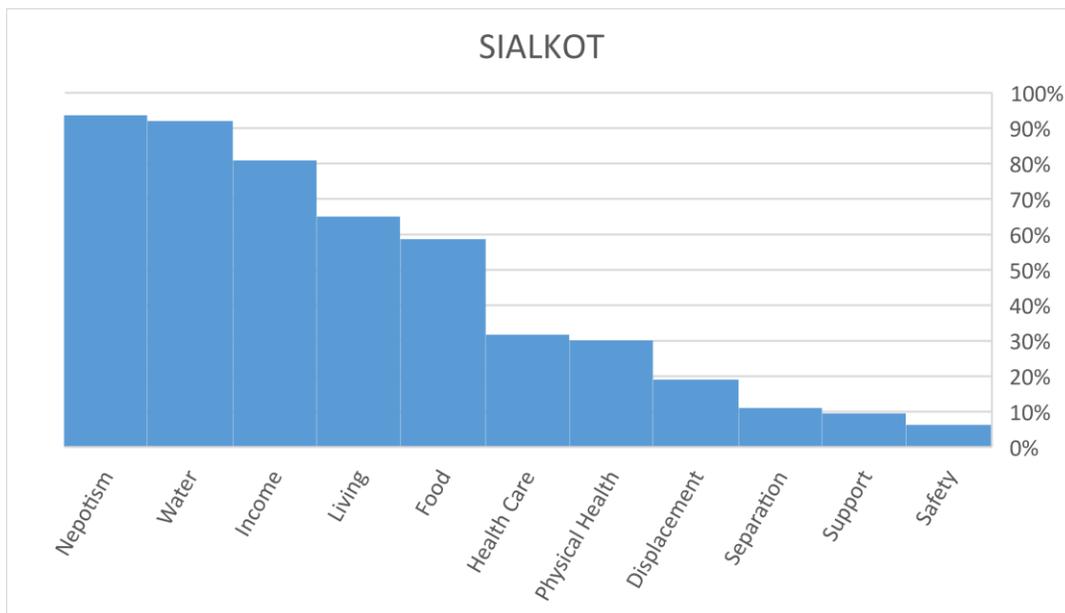
Located at River side, the villages have drowned, these people do not leave there places whatever the conditions are as they do not have any alternate choices. A majority number of people pass every year due to snake venoms as there is non-availability of medical camps nearby. They still use barter system exchanging goods for goods. They swim through River Indus to buy products for daily use. Usually their crops get destroyed in every season. They assume the tribe to be richest one who holds a boat. Usually if they borrow something from any landlord they assure their ladies as a guarantee to them.

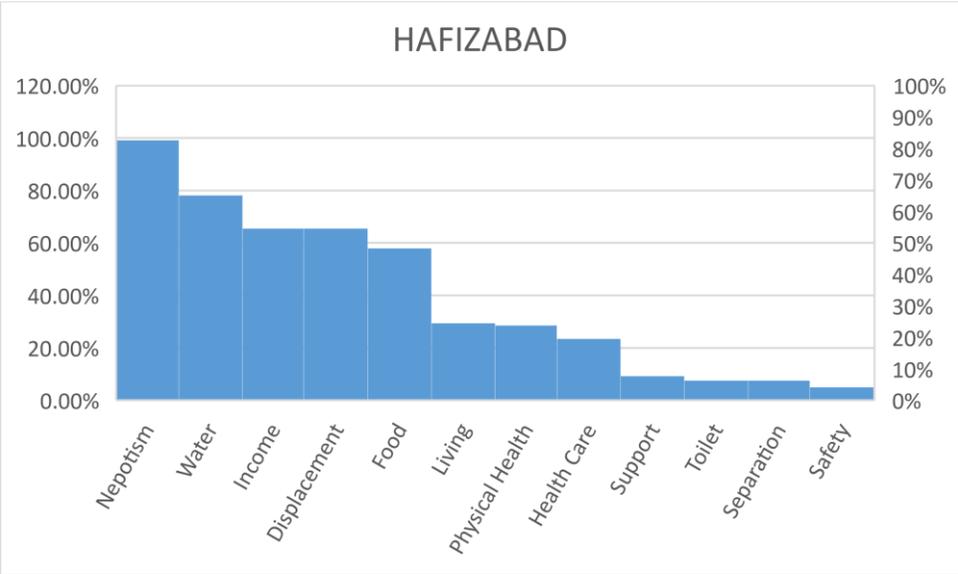
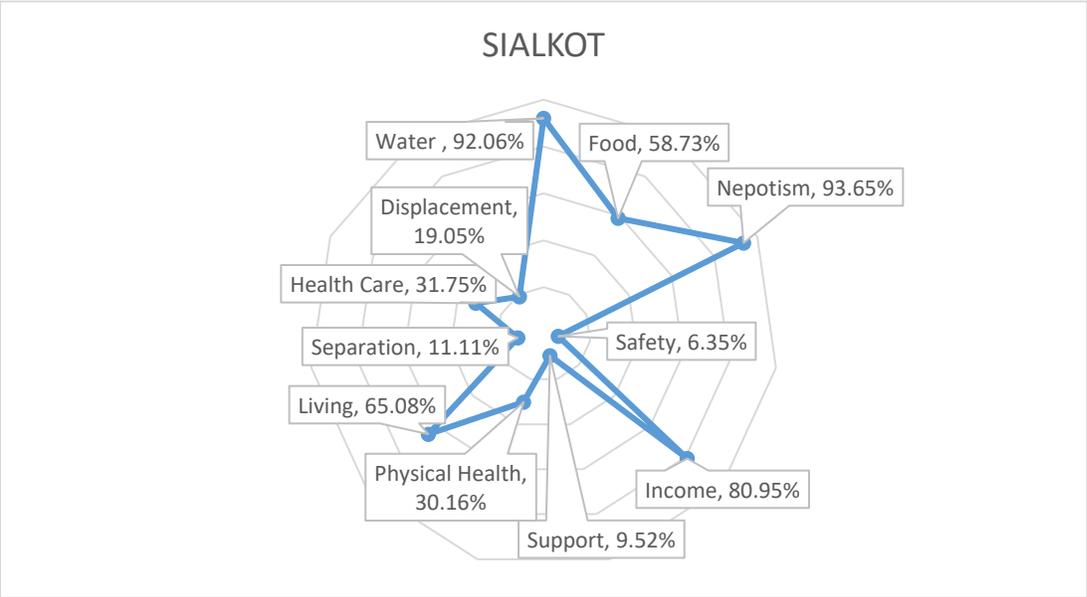
FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS OF ALL FIELDS

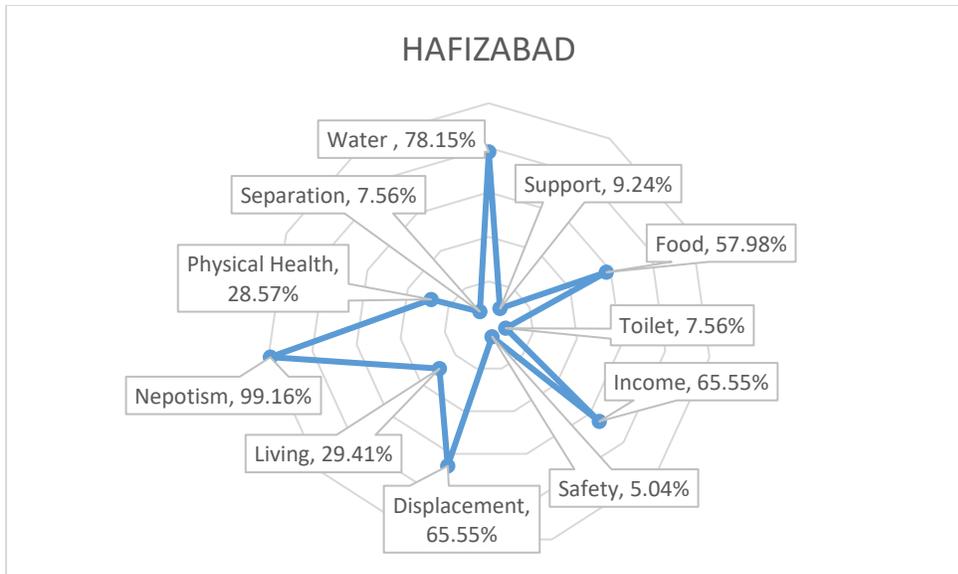
Findings of Sambrial and Hafiz Abad Field Trip

There are some interesting facts that we come across the field. People have a burning desire for more tea and gas. If the people are provided with tea and gas they could manage their whole day without food. There are various INGO's, NGO's and agencies working for relief measures but they all do not have a proper analysis of what products should be shared with in relief measures. People claimed except Red Crescent mostly organization distribute useless ration boxes. These people were not poor but conditions did not supported them. These all people were farmers or cattle breeders but unfortunately the flood of 2010 destroyed everything. The biggest issue they face is of soil erosion that they are still unable to restore their lands and that has led their lives to more vulnerable situations. Neither government nor any NGO has invested in restoration of lands of those poor people. This is the biggest reason people demand for livelihood and cash rather than other materialistic items. As they do not have anything to lose, all families hold same economic status so there is very less crime rate. Caste system has been one of the serious problem despite the poverty in Sambrial people feel that asking or seeking relief measures is against their respect and dignity. People are also in serious need for boats that should be permanently provided to the local councils for support and that could be more efficient and effective. Alcohol is normally used as it's the cheapest drug they could produce within limited income to provide them relief from pain and sorrows. The NGO's and government usually place the relief items far from flooded areas where it is nearly impossible for the affected people to come due to hurdles either due to nepotism or movement issues. The main motive of any organization is not to provide relief but rather emphasizes on to be in good books nationally and internationally.

Major Problems according to HESPER







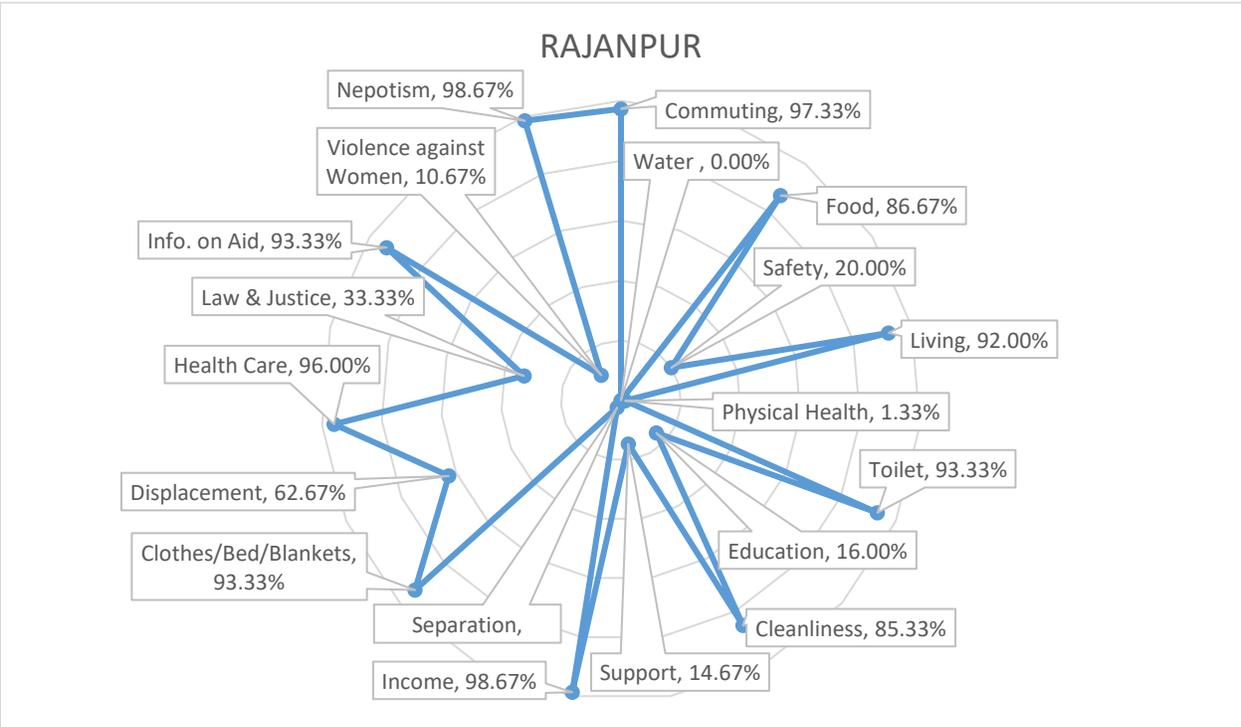
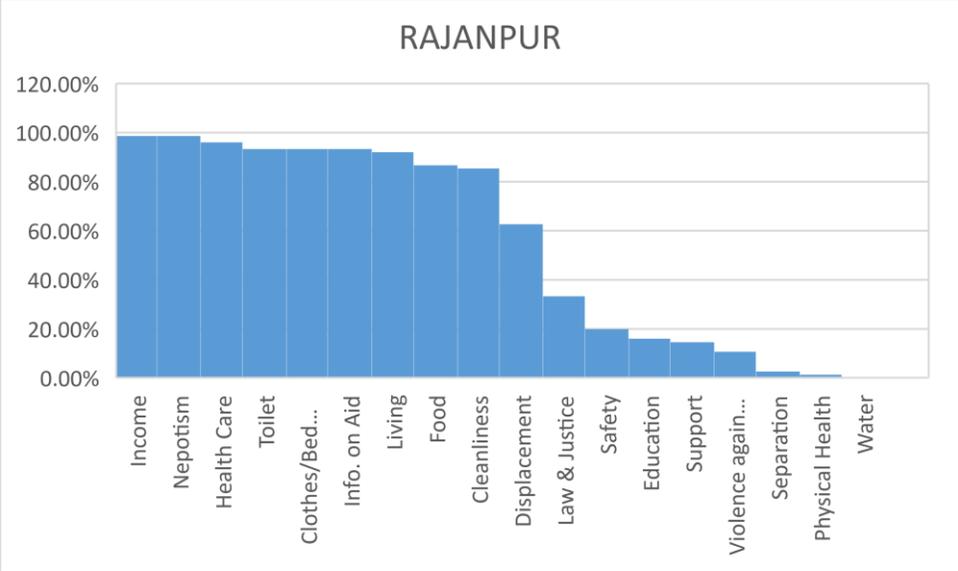
Findings of Rajanpur Trip

Major Rod-Kohi areas traversed by hill torrents constitute nearly 65 percent of the total area of Pakistan and encompass entire Balochistan i.e. (Makran coastal Basin and Kharan closed Desert Basin). Indigenous Spate Irrigation/ hill torrent-irrigation systems traditionally called Rod-Kohi. Rod means water channel and Kohi pertains to mountains. In these areas major constraint is the use of flood flow which is highly variable in quantity and distribution, both in time and space. Annual rainfall is low, uncertain and patchy. Flow is laden with high silt in each flood. It is unfortunate that in spite of scarcity of water, major part of flood flows is lost due to mismanagement. The flow of water from the hill torrents is so swift that it devastates everything whenever it rains. There are more casualties due to Rod-Kohi than the floods in River Indus.

The people in Rajanpur remain affected due to incompetency of organizations and governments as they both do not provide any alternative system to the families living in anti-locked areas. The relief products are unloaded or dispatched to the safest areas like Kot Mithon that is an industrial area and have developed its self a lot due to involvement of political and organizational characters. Secondly it is difficult for organizations to reach there due to tall trees and the criminal activities in the jungles.

These sites lack medical camps or are far from their residencies that it could take a couple of hours to reach at the first aid center. This clearly shows the reason behind the increased number of casualties. Government or organizations should initiate some steps for providing livelihood or basic necessities of life by getting accesses to the areas until and unless they do not have any permanent solution of accommodating those families. There is no use of providing relief measures to those areas which do not require them just over the political will.

Major Problems according to HESPER



HURDLES IN FIELDS

Hurdles in Rajanpur Field Trip

The atmospheric and weather conditions were nearly unbearable. Accompanying each other we just motivated each other to strengthen ourselves. Rajanpur is a multi-diversified area with Sindhis, Siraikis and

Bloch's. It almost took 25 or more minutes to conduct an interview as one of the biggest issue was language barrier. Shehzad Anwar Cheema and his friends proved to be angels in disguise as they helped us by interpreting their answers. At several points our cars got stuck into the mud and we had to help ourselves by dragging the car. We were already aware of the climatic situation that if it rained we are all stuck in the land locked basin with no signals.

Hurdles in the Sambrial and Hafiz Abad Field Trip

Primarily there were no special hurdles that we might have faced in these areas. The rising temperature near the coast lines of river Chenab could be one of the biggest hurdle for an outsider during the research. There were few families that took a bit long to be comfortable with us. Mode of language and your body language affects a lot on the people. As soon as you develop your trust over them, they start responding you more positively. The hardest part is hurting the expectations of people when they start having the faith in you that you might help them out through this catastrophe. The psychological breakdowns of individuals were so clearly visible but none of the organization have ever tried to provide relief over psychological problems.

PART 2

Data Collection from Organizations working on Relief and Recovery of Floods in Punjab.

In second phase we gathered data from list of organizations working on emergency management particularly the relief and recovery phases. This was the hardest task as organizations were not very responsive toward such issues. They had misperceived us as funders to them who could help them out in their community efforts. We sent the formal email and letters to 20 organizations. Following is the format of letter.

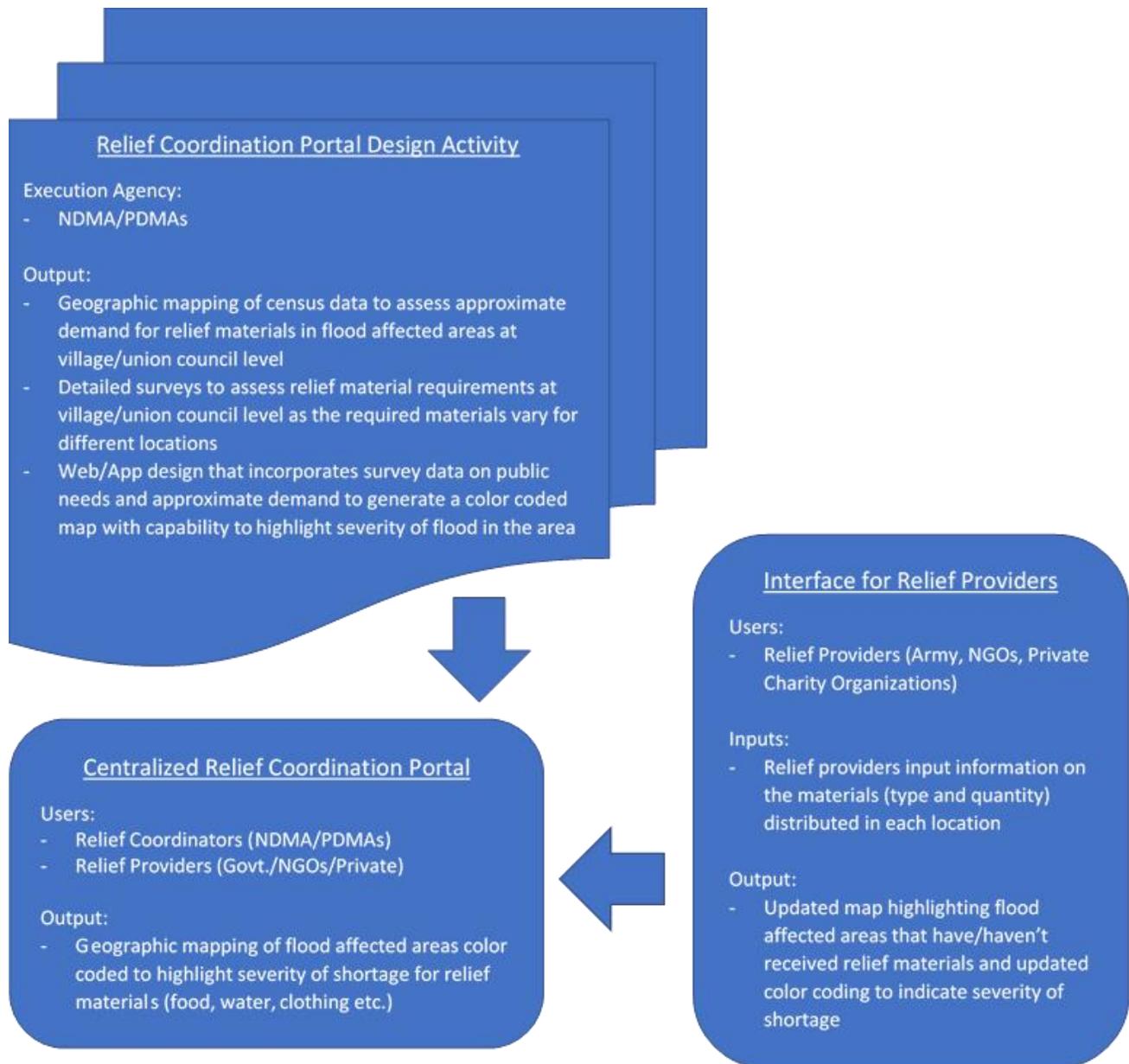
Interview Guide and important questions

Keeping the above project in view, we asked following questions.

1. Your organization's strengths e.g. which services or project you are best at
2. The list of items you generally deliver in the flood prone areas.
3. How different and similar these items are from your core agenda items (e.g. lets say you provide services in free education of kids but you also deliver goods at flood prone areas, hence you are doing more than what your capacity allows you)
4. Which geographical areas you mostly cover or have ever covered during the flood prone areas in Punjab. List them.
5. What items are frequently demanded by flood affectees, if any?
6. What items are generally donated by the public to your organizations to further help affectees, if any
7. What items are or remain in excess after you provide relief items?
8. What items you get short of mostly after you provide relief items in flood relief areas?
9. List the main hurdles in providing relief in flood affected areas: You may choose from following or add if there are others
 - a. Not enough relief materials/supplies
 - b. Not enough logistic support to deliver relief material
 - c. Inadequate knowledge of exact locations where relief is required
 - d. Lack of coordination with other relief agencies/ government
 - e. List if any other hurdle your organization come across.
10. Do you offer services in provinces other than Punjab (Yes/No)... Which others, if yes.
11. Do you coordinate or network with any other organizations which is also doing the relief distribution, such as PDMA or Red Crescent or any other organizations of your choice?

The team assured that the information was being sought strictly for the purpose of gaining knowledge of services and supplies available with an estimate of their corresponding costs and should not be construed as intent, commitment, or promise to acquire services, supplies, or solutions offered. No contract would result from any response to this RFI.

From the responses, the team managed to draw the following model.



What did we learn from project?

Organizations and government believe that they have played their part by providing the relief measures. The biggest issue is assessing and analyzing the areas of floods that are majorly affected. It is nearly impossible for families held in flood around 100 km to come up to the relief points. Neither government nor NGO's have the trained staff to acknowledge the right people for the right stuff. The relief institutions even look for their own safety measures. We have seen army as the most active institution involved in restoration or relief measures but they even hardly try to get accesses to the basins.

There is a huge gap between what public demands and what is provided. Organizations neither diagnose what might be the requirements of the flood prone areas and sending up such items that are not seasonal and investing in non-useable items. Analysis of the flood prone area keeping in view it's all aspects of environment, regional taste and demands should be considered. This gap could be removed by working over the ground field realities rather interpreting the media reports that are vague and fake.

There is no collaboration among organizations that is the reason there is excess of some items in the flood prone areas and are of no use. Governments should invest more in restoration and rehabilitation of areas rather investing in relief measures for long period of time.